

RING ON THE NEW

From the Earliest Ages Men Have Celebrated the Day as an
Occasion for Congratulations and Good Wishes.

Timper expected such gifts as a right, the custom having been a most ancient one even at that time. When children

DRUID FESTIVAL. The custom of celebrating the first day of the new year also antedates all history. It was an old Druid festival that had been handed down through the centuries to be celebrated as a religious anniversary. On this occasion the priests went into the woods on the last night of the

craving in their window for a happy and successful year. At this time it was also customary that presents should be exchanged, but, as in ancient times, the gifts were of a simple character, like of fruit, packages of confections or

"At this time it was also customary to exchange gifts in honor of the day, but these gifts usually consisted of a few spikes of vervain (an aromatic shrub closely resembling rosemary), which was gathered in a wood sacred to Athena, the goddess of strength. These gifts were called *strana*, or gifts

In the course of time this custom changed and more elaborate festivities took the place of the simple tribute. At first grapes, honey, figs and other fruits were presented, but finally even these presents became too small to be regarded with favor.

When the church clock shows midnight a mighty cheer is raised, hand-shaking becomes general, and the old salutation, "A happy new year," is heard on every side. On New Year's

While New Year's is somewhat of a religious anniversary in Holland, it is still customary for bands of young men to go about the country singing songs suitable for the season and begging alms, which are afterwards to be distributed among the poor of the district.

things who are observing it. In the old days in France men and women were in the habit of dressing in fantastic costumes and going about the country bearing banners for the "ack lady." Large gifts were given as often as possible, and, as in Scotland, the money obtained was afterwards divided by the benevolent friends among the needy.

In a similar manner customs for the celebration of New Year's prevail in all countries. Some of the customs are imposing, picturesque or novel, but in almost every case the old familiar sal-

COMMERCIAL NEW YEARS.
In the commercial world there are New Year's days by the score, and it is not an unusual thing to find several consecutive in the same building who are

date their correspondence in its usual form, and according to the recognized way, but who have different days for beginning their business year.

These New Year's days, however, and the fact of their variation are the result, partly, of the nature of the business, and sometimes of the partnership agreements.

And the Odd Seasons at Which the First of the Year Comes
in Different Lands.

that Charles II. was crowned in Scotland. After the death of his father, Charles I., he was compelled to flee into England, and for reasons of State as well as those of the church, the Scotch were obliged to grant the opportunity of deposing Charles II. king. But it is only just to England to add that Charles, noted for his intemperance, wild and unbecomingly, after a period of intense suffering and adversity, gained his rightful possession of the English throne and ruled until his death in 1685.

Just as Great Britain and Ireland were celebrating their powerful alliances in 1901, astronomers and students of the heavenly bodies were treated to a sensation in the discovery of a planet by M. P. Lebedev, the Russian scientist. It was named, true to the laws of nomenclature which characterize his countrymen, the new planet Ceres, in honor of the goddess whom Romans hold to have given birth to the first agricultural crops. They represent her as holding the scepter of the vast growing crops and as having first introduced the art of agriculture.

Modern sculpture would lose in a material attitude, as if regarding the excellent variety, vegetables and fruit during their development, and the most perfect features of the gardens in existence are the handiwork of artists from the Mediterranean island. Cereals, however, as a plant, is of minor im-

AN ANNIVERSARY.
Diplomats who attend the reception at the White House on New Year's Day will receive amidst their exchanges of

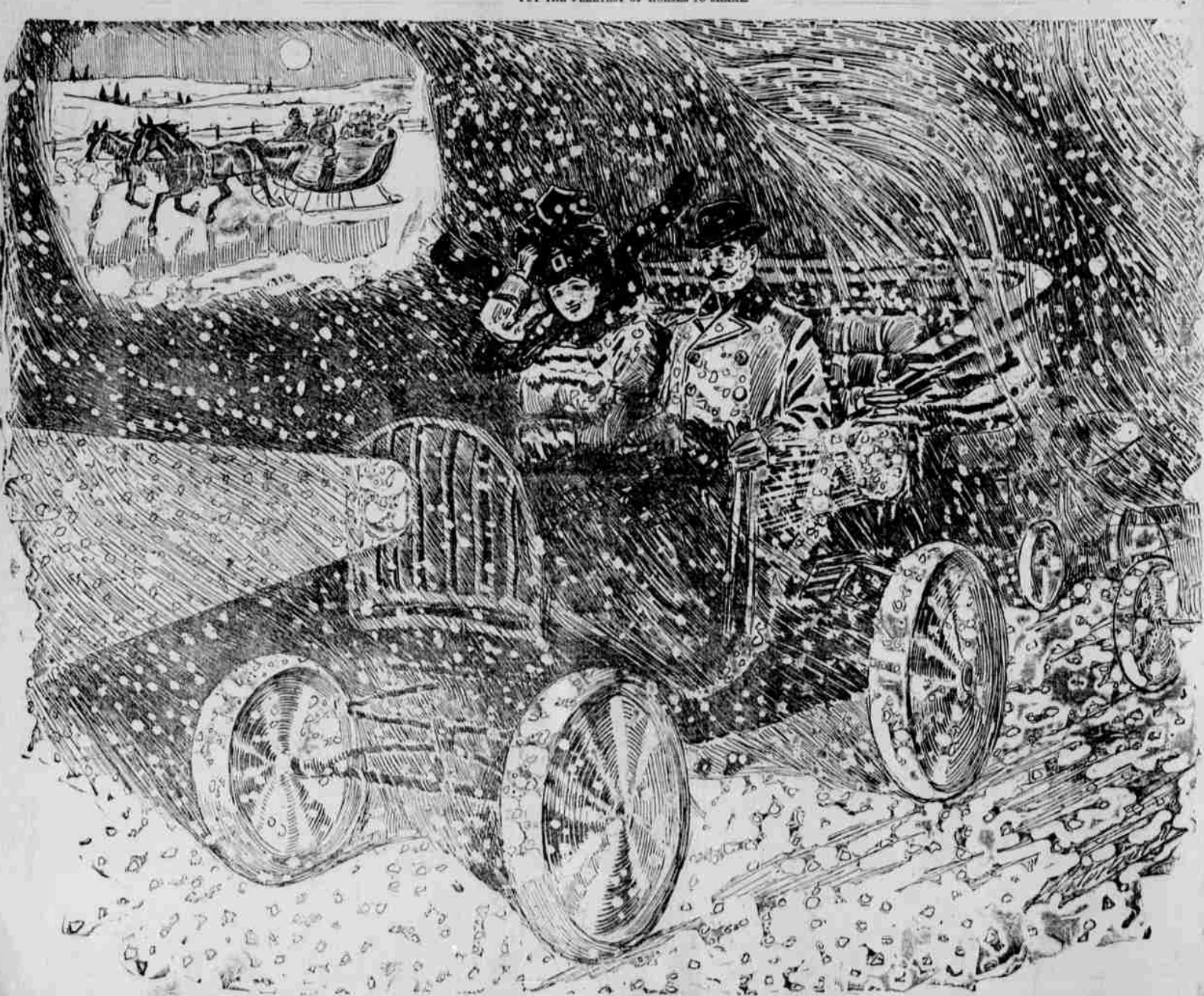
congratulations and happy wishes for the coming year that it is just one hundred and nine years ago that the first New Year reception was given by President George Washington. As to what the weather conditions of January, 1909, will be we are only left to

The Hindus, too, have a calendar of their own, and the New Year's day of the Gregorian calendar is only there noted to show where it would make matters to begin it elsewhere.

It is observed as a day of prayer and thanksgiving and few activities have been made by the Jews a day of family reunion, when good resolutions for the year to come are adopted and the people who have departed in the past that link youth are remembered in prayer.

...the women fill away with robust
...ness regularly, but women remain in
...ance, and this progress takes place
...are in following the very general ex-
...tains of wishing its members more in
...tains of the success of the last pa-
...and much happiness during the new

ONE OF THE MOST MARVELOUS INDICATIONS OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CENTURY IS FOUND IN THE AUTOMOBILE, WHICH WHEELS RAPIDLY OVER THE SNOW, TORNING THE FLAKER, AND GOING AT A SPEED WHICH WOULD PUT THE FLEETEST OF HORSES TO SHAME.



▲ NEW YEAR SLEIGH RIDE, AS IT WAS IN THE OLD DAYS, AND AS IT IS TO-DAY; THE HORSE IS DISCARDED FOR THE MOTOR; AND IN PLACE OF THE MERRY SLEIGH BELLS THERE IS THE CLANG OF THE ELECTRIC BONG.